

In the Drawings

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-5, in which the descriptive legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to each of the figures.

Attachment: Replacement sheet(s)

Annotated sheet(s) showing changes

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 14, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawing figures have been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Specifically, the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to each of FIGS. 1 – 5. No new matter has been introduced. Approval of the corrections is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended such that "virtual links" has sufficient antecedent basis everywhere it appears.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. pat. no. 6,657,958 Tanaka (hereinafter, "Tanaka" or "Tanaka patent").

The presently claimed invention relates to a device and process for flow control in a switched network, notably in the field of communication between onboard computers, in the avionics field. In accordance with the invention, each switch (20), linking at least one transmitter to at least one receiver, contains an allocation table (T), defined statically, which associates a bandwidth with each of the virtual links so as to guarantee a maximum transmission period of an element of information in each virtual link and an allocation such that for every physical link the sum of the bandwidths allocated to the various virtual links using this physical link is less than the bandwidth of this physical link. The invention is described from page 6 line 25 to page 7 line 11 in view of figure 6.

As described in page 5 lines 11-19, this device thus enables a maximum transmission period of an item of information on each virtual link to be guaranteed. To guarantee that there will never be any congestion of the communication network, this allocation is such that for every physical link, the sum of the bandwidths allocated to the various virtual links using this physical link is less than the bandwidth of this physical link, this bandwidth being dependent on the characteristics of the physical support.

In contrast, Tanaka, as described in column 1 lines 5-23 and in column 5 lines 1-41 and as shown in figure 1, discloses a bandwidth control system in an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network comprising a signaling controller 201, a cell transmitter 202, a cell receiver 203, a bandwidth controller 204 and a bandwidth management table 206, in which the bandwidth controller 204 is connected to the signaling controller 201, to the cell transmitter 202 and to the bandwidth management table 206.

Moreover as described in column 5 lines 1-41 and as shown in FIG. 1, the cell transmitter 202 and the cell receiver 203 are linked to a data channel 207 of a line 211. The signaling controller 201 is linked to a signaling channel 205 of said link 211. Said link 211 may be a link between an ATM terminal and an ATM switch or a link between two ATM switches. The ATM of Tanaka and the system of the presently claimed invention are thus quite different.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

Dated: 9/14/05



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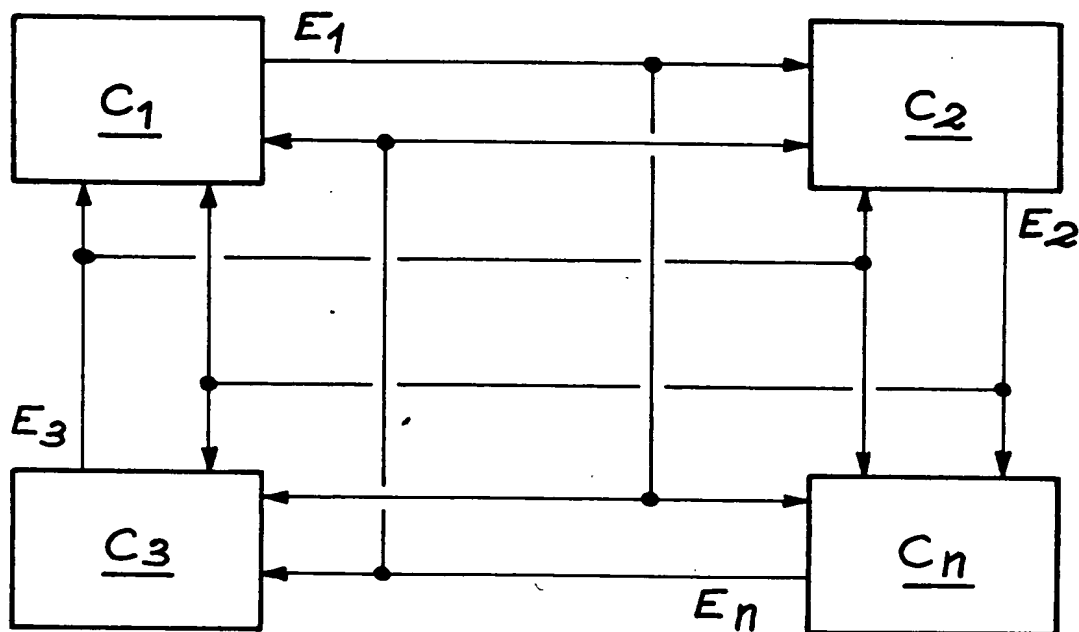


FIG. 1

PRIOR ART

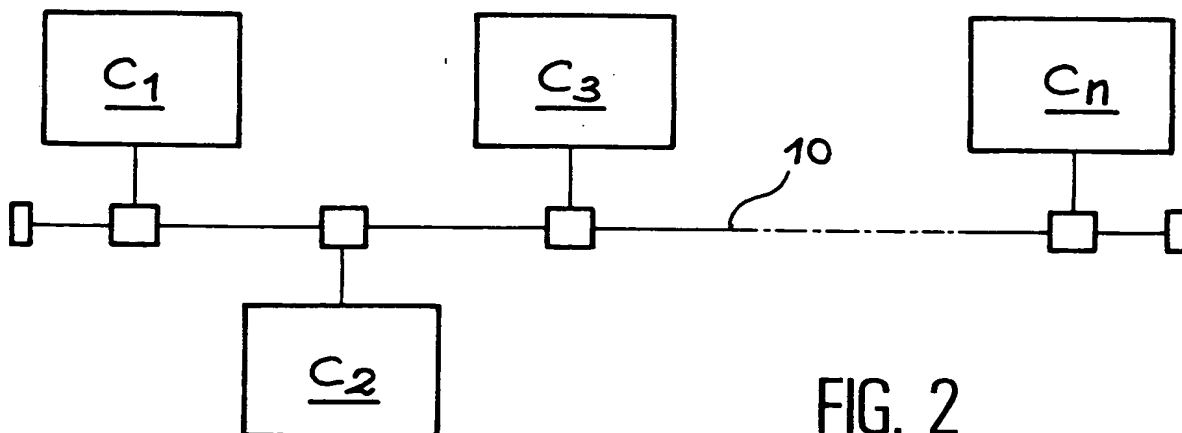


FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

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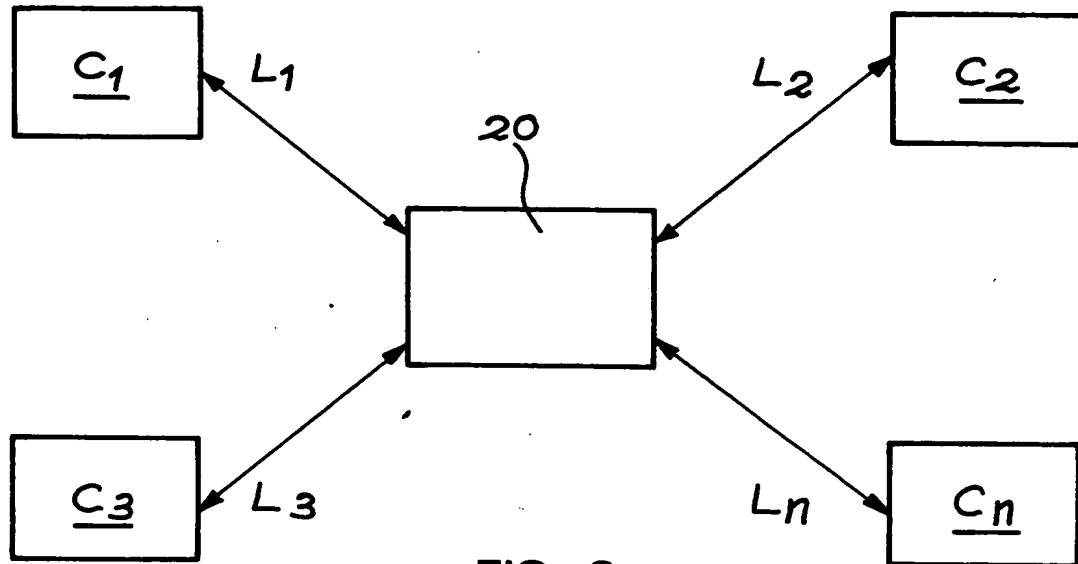


FIG. 3

PRIOR ART

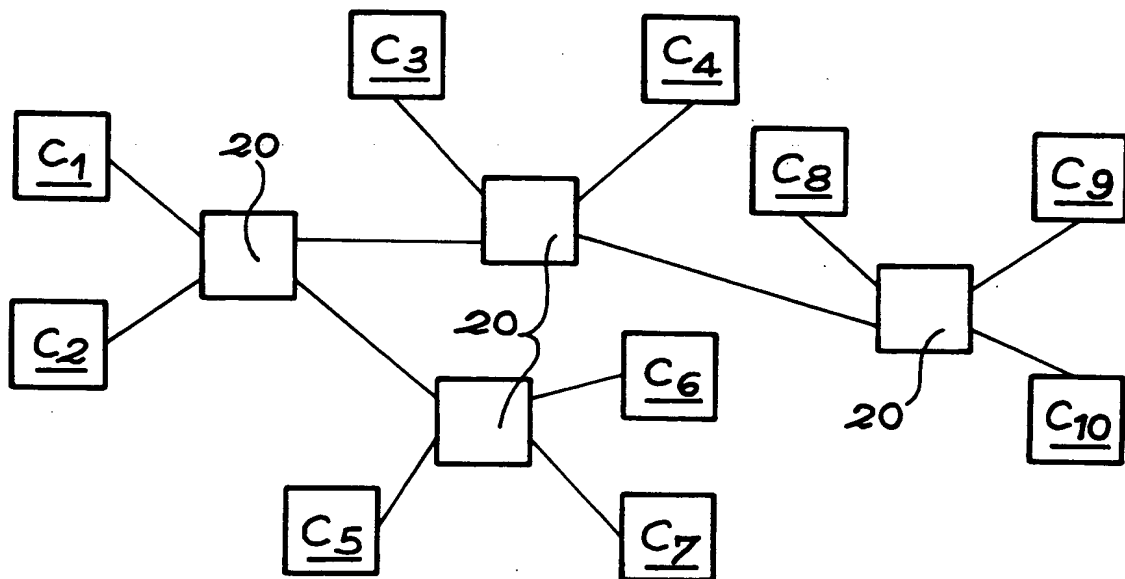


FIG. 4

PRIOR ART

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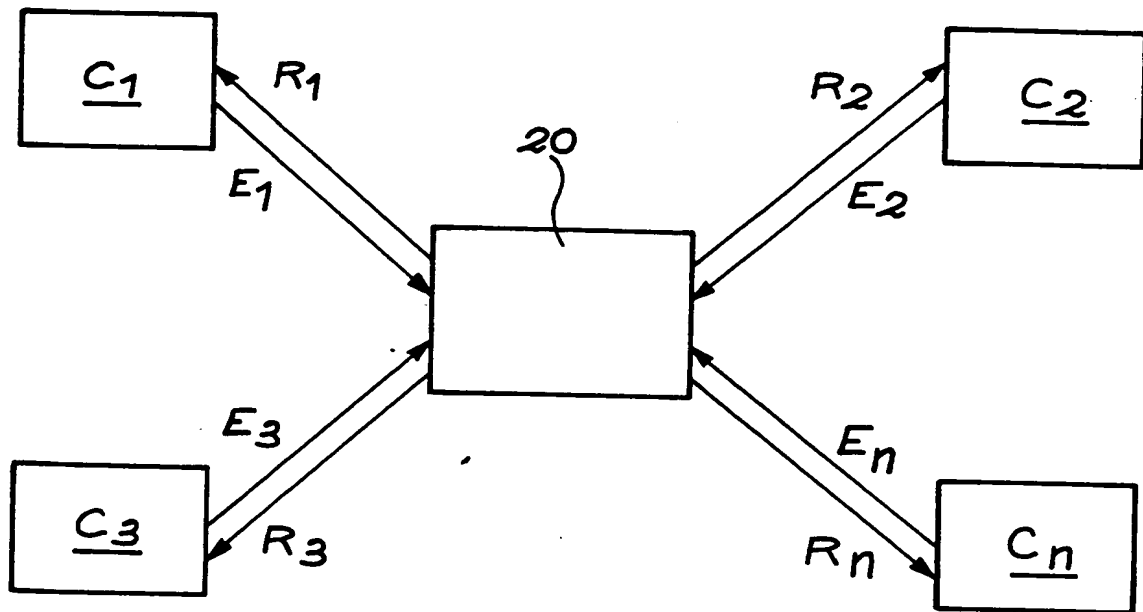


FIG. 5

prior art

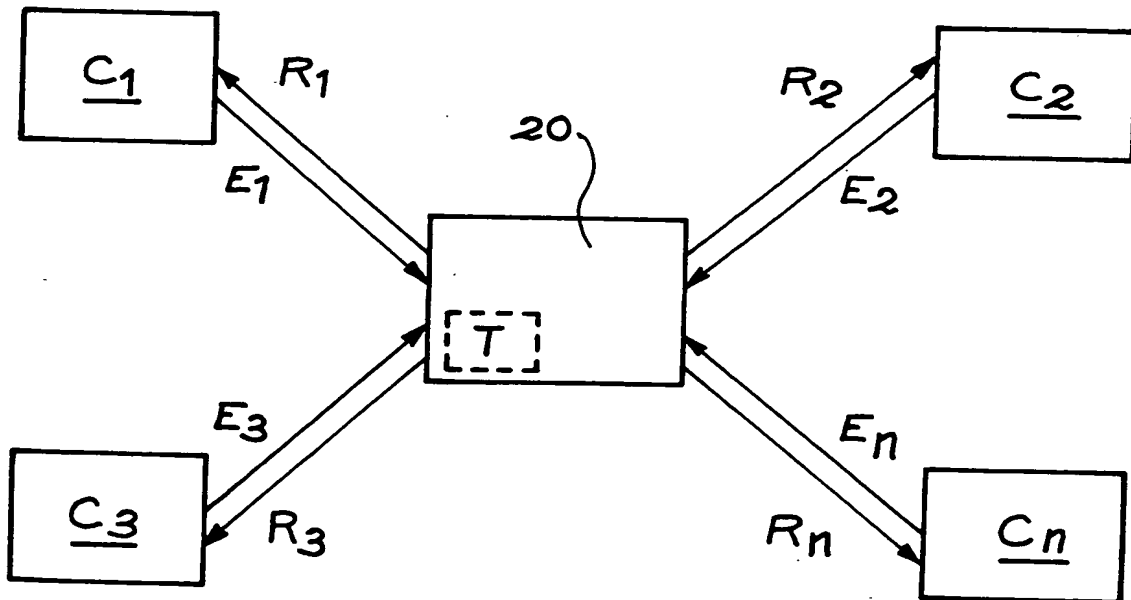


FIG. 6